

1. A method for use in an electronic learning system that manages versioned learning objects in a master repository and in a local repository, the method comprising:
detecting a version conflict associated with a learning object; and
resolving the version conflict.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
creating the learning object in the local repository, the learning object comprising one of a new learning object and a new version of an existing learning object;
wherein creating includes detecting and resolving version conflicts.

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3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
transferring the learning object between the local repository and the master repository;
wherein transferring includes detecting and resolving version conflicts.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the version conflict comprises determining if two versions of the learning object will be present in the local repository.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting the version conflict comprises determining if an existing object in the local repository will reference two different versions of the learning object.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein resolving the version conflict comprises:
identifying existing objects in the local repository that reference the learning object;
and
changing references in the existing objects.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein changing the references comprises modifying metadata in the existing objects.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein resolving the version conflict comprises providing an option to select a preferred version of the learning object.

5 9. The method of claim 1, wherein resolving comprises propagating metadata along a chain of objects that lead to the learning object.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the metadata is propagated in the master repository.

10 11. The method of claim 1, wherein resolving comprises postponing conflict resolution until the learning object becomes editable.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting and resolving are performed at check-in of the learning object to the master repository.

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13. A computer program product for use in an electronic learning system that manages versioned learning objects in a master repository and in a local repository, the computer program product being tangibly embodied in an information carrier, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to:

20 detect a version conflict associated with a learning object; and
resolve the version conflict.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer program product is operable to cause the machine to:

25 create the learning object in the local repository, the learning object comprising one of a new learning object and a new version of an existing learning object;
wherein creating includes detecting and resolving version conflicts.

15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the computer program product is operable to cause the machine to:

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transfer the learning object between the local repository and the master repository;
wherein transferring includes detecting and resolving version conflicts.

16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein detecting the version
5 conflict comprises determining if two versions of the learning object will be present in the
local repository.

17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein detecting the version
conflict comprises determining if an existing object in the local repository will reference
10 two different versions of the learning object.

18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein resolving the version
conflict comprises:
identifying existing objects in the local repository that reference the learning object;
15 and
changing references in the existing objects.

19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein changing the references
comprises modifying metadata in the existing objects.

20. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein resolving the version
conflict comprises providing an option to select a preferred version of the learning object.

21. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein resolving comprises
25 propagating metadata along a chain of objects that lead to the learning object.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the metadata is propagated
in the master repository.

23. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein resolving comprises postponing conflict resolution until the learning object becomes editable.

24. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein detecting and resolving are performed at check-in of the new version of the object to the master repository.

25. An electronic learning system, comprising:
a master repository which stores existing versions of learning objects;
a local repository which stores alternate versions of the learning objects stored in the master repository; and
a processor that executes instructions to display content that is based on at least some of the alternate versions of the learning objects and at least some of the existing versions of the learning objects.

26. The electronic learning system of claim 25, wherein the processor executes instructions to:
detect a conflict associated with an alternate version of a learning object stored in the local repository; and
resolve the conflict.

27. The electronic learning system of claim 26, wherein resolving comprises propagating metadata along a chain of objects that lead to the alternate version of the learning object.

28. The electronic learning system of claim 27, wherein the metadata is propagated in the master repository.

29. The electronic learning system of claim 26, wherein resolving comprises postponing assignment of a cascading conflict resolution until the alternate version of the learning object becomes editable.

30. The electronic learning system of claim 25, wherein the local repository is divided into workspaces, each of the workspaces including alternate versions of the learning objects stored in the master repository, learning objects stored in one workspace not referencing learning objects stored in another workspace.

31. The electronic learning system of claim 26, wherein detecting and resolving are performed at check-in of the alternate version of the object to the master repository.

32. The electronic learning system of claim 26, wherein the processor creates the alternate version of the object by either (a) copying an existing version of the object from the master repository to the local repository, or (b) generating the alternate object in the local repository.